



HR1496

LRB096 24350 GRL 43922 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are pleased to congratulate Cathy Ficker Terrill on the occasion of her retirement as President and CEO of the Ray Graham Association for People with Disabilities after 16 years of dedicated service; and

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WHEREAS, Cathy Ficker Terrill earned her master's degree in disability policy; and

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WHEREAS, Cathy Ficker Terrill is well known among her peers as a pioneer in the human services field; she was instrumental in guiding Ray Graham and the industry in replacing the "workshop" model of employment to a more person-centered approach; as a result of her work, Ray Graham has grown to become one of the largest agencies, providing service and support to nearly 2,000 individuals with disabilities at 35 locations throughout DuPage County; during her tenure, Ray Graham also became the first organization in the world to receive a 4-year Accreditation with the Council on Quality and Leadership; and

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WHEREAS, Cathy Ficker Terrill is a past President of the American Association on Mental Retardation and has been the President of the Illinois Association for Persons with Severe

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1 Handicaps; she was appointed by President Bill Clinton to serve
2 on the President's Committee on Mental Retardation for 2 terms;
3 she served as the Director of the Illinois Planning Council on
4 Developmental Disabilities, where she founded one of the first
5 projects on dual diagnosis; she helped to write and ensure
6 passage of the Illinois Early Intervention Act, The Family
7 Support Act, and the Transition Act, which helped expand access
8 to Early Intervention, provided cash subsidies to children and
9 adults with mental health needs and developmental
10 disabilities, and mandated transition services for young
11 adults; in January 2009, she was named to the Special Education
12 Funding Task Force by Illinois Senate Republican Leader
13 Christine Radogno; in 2010, she was appointed to serve on the
14 Governor's Task Force on Employment and Economic Opportunity
15 for Persons with Disabilities by Governor Pat Quinn; and

16 WHEREAS, Cathy Ficker Terrill has served as a volunteer for
17 numerous charitable and civic organizations, including the
18 Elmhurst Hospital Board of Directors, the Council on Quality
19 and Leadership Board of Directors, the Elmhurst College ELSA
20 Advisory Board, the Life's Plan Special Needs Trust Board of
21 Directors, the Mental Disability Rights International Board of
22 Directors, the League of Women's Voters, the RTA Community
23 Advisory Committee, the University of Illinois Center for
24 Excellence on Disabilities, the President Elmhurst Morning
25 Rotary, the Institute on Public Policy for People with

1 Disabilities, the DuPage Family Disability Network, and the
2 Board of Directors of the Human Services Research Institute;
3 she was recently elected to the Board of Directors of the
4 Downers Grove Chamber of Commerce and is a member of the
5 Illinois Department of Developmental Disabilities' Quality
6 Committee, the University of Illinois Department of
7 Disabilities' Quality Committee, and the University of
8 Illinois Center on Excellence for Disability's Advisory
9 Committee; she is also the past Director of the Illinois
10 Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities; and

11 WHEREAS, Internationally, Cathy Ficker Terrill has
12 volunteered her time to help families of children with
13 disabilities in the Baltic States and Eastern Europe with the
14 International Christian Children's Bureau; she has helped set
15 up early intervention family support and parent support groups
16 in Poland with UNICEF and has worked to unite children in
17 Russian orphanages with families; she has facilitated
18 strategic planning in Saudi Arabia and Lithuania and has
19 recently volunteered her time to expand self-advocacy in China,
20 Japan, and Cyprus; and

21 WHEREAS, Following her retirement, Cathy Ficker Terrill
22 plans to pursue a reduced workload, while continuing her
23 allegiance and ongoing relationship with Ray Graham;
24 therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
2 NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
3 congratulate Cathy Ficker Terrill on the occasion of her
4 retirement and wish her many happy and healthy retirement
5 years; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
7 presented to Cathy Ficker Terrill as a symbol of our esteem and
8 respect.